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Progress of the People of

**ST. HELENA, 1934**

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**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA  
FOR 1934**

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### I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of St. Helena consists of the Island of St. Helena with the Island of Ascension as a Dependency.

#### ST. HELENA.

St. Helena, with an area of about 47 square miles, is about the size of Jersey, and is situated in latitude 15° 55' South and longitude 5° 42' West. The Island is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town, and the nearest land, with the exception of the Island of Ascension 700 miles to the north-west, is a point on the West Coast of Africa 1,140 miles distant. From the sea the Island presents the appearance of a pyramidal rock rising to a height of 2,700 feet, but the interior, hidden by steep perpendicular cliffs, discloses a remarkable contrast in fertility and scenery. Running across the centre

of the Island, nearly east and west, is a high ridge which divides the Island into two natural divisions. This ridge forms the north wall of the crater of the extinct volcano which gave birth to the Island, the southern part having been broken away and submerged. The centre of the crater, the district called Sandy Bay, now forms one of the most picturesque parts of the Island, and the first sight of it from the summit of the ridge is an unfailing cause of astonishment to tourists and visitors. On the northern side of this ridge, the hills divided by deep ravines descend toward the sea for about three miles at a general slope of about  $10^{\circ}$ , and then terminate abruptly in the steep cliffs which form the coast-line. There are, however, some remarkable exceptions. In the north-east the mass known as the Barn and the hill called Flagstaff rise sheer from the sea to the height of 2,200 feet, whilst in the west, High Hill and Man and Horse reach to heights of 2,300 feet and 1,775 feet respectively.

The climate of St. Helena, in spite of the calumnies directed against it by the critics of the detention of the Emperor Napoleon, now all completely refuted, has long been recognized as being healthy and mild. There is no malaria or other mosquito-borne tropical disease. Storms are rare, the last thunder-storm having occurred in 1897. On the coast the average annual rainfall is 7 inches, at 1,000 feet about 21 inches, and at 2,000 feet about 39 inches. October with an average of 12 rain-days is the driest month, and February with an average of 19 rain-days the wettest. Almost every variety of plant is to be found, and although the Island is so small and presents outwardly such a barren appearance, over a thousand different botanical species are known to exist, of which 40 are indigenous.

St. Helena was originally a possession of the East India Company, but by the Government of India Act, 1833, it was brought under the direct administration of the Crown, with effect from the 22nd April, 1834, the actual occupation being delayed until the 24th February, 1836. Under the East India Company the Island had enjoyed the benefits of a paternal and benevolent Government for over 163 years, at a cost of about £100,000 per annum against an annual revenue of about £4,000 from the Settlement. The alteration in its constitutional status was followed by the most drastic reforms, the full effects of which were counter-balanced by the Island becoming an important port of call on one of the world's greatest trade routes. A substantial garrison maintained by the Crown, the presence of the West Coast Squadron of the Royal Navy, and Imperial expenditure in the liberation of slaves from the West Coast of Africa all helped to delay the results of a policy of making St. Helena balance its budget from its own resources, and it was not until 1873 that the full effects of the change from the Company to the Crown became evident.

The development of the overland route to India, improved methods of preserving provisions and of carrying water, and better construction of vessels, all contributed to make vessels pass St. Helena without calling, and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 finally brought about its downfall to poverty.

#### ASCENSION.

Ascension Island lies in latitude 7° 53' South and longitude 14° 18' West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena. It has an area of 34 square miles.

From the sea Ascension appears bleak and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing effect of the larger part of the Island and affords pasture for about 600 sheep and cattle.

Ascension was annexed to the Crown on the 22nd October, 1815, by the brigs *Peruvian* and *Zenobia* as a measure of security during the imprisonment of Napoleon in St. Helena.

At the present time the Island is an important cable station, and its only inhabitants are English and St. Helenian employees of the Cable Company.

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A note on the climate of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Report, No. 1,475. The same Report also contains a note on the history of the Islands under the East India Company.

## II.—GOVERNMENT.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena, as from the 22nd of April, 1834, was transferred from the East India Company and became vested in the Crown.

Provision for the authority and appointment of Governor, for the establishment of a Council to assist the Governor, and for the making and promulgation of laws, was made by a Royal Order in Council dated the 12th of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, and fresh provision was made.

The Executive Council as it exists at present was established by "The St. Helena Order in Council, 1929," revoking previous Orders. By Instructions issued on the 5th of June, 1929, it is provided that the Council shall consist of the Senior Military Officer in Command of regular troops in the Island and of the person holding the substantive appointment of Government Secretary of the Island, as *ex officio* Members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. Provision was also included for the appointment of Extraordinary Members on special occasions.

At the present time there are three unofficial Members of Council.

Subject to the reservation of power for legislation by Parliament and by the Privy Council, the Order of 1863 provides for the making of laws by the Governor. It is also laid down under the "Interpretation and General Law Ordinance, 1895," that "a copy of the draft of every Ordinance shall be affixed to a board in front of the Court House for the inspection of the Public for one month before the passing thereof; provided always that in any case in which the Governor-in-Council thinks it urgently necessary to dispense with such public notification . . . he may do so."

#### ASCENSION.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of September, 1922, Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena, and it was provided that the Governor and Executive Council of St. Helena should have the same powers in relation to Ascension as they possess in relation to St. Helena. The Manager of the Eastern Telegraph Company is appointed as Resident Magistrate and is a Member of the Executive Council of St. Helena.

### III.—POPULATION.

At the time of its discovery in 1502, St. Helena was uninhabited. From 1502 until 1659 it was used by the ships of all nations as a place where travellers and seamen might recuperate, and where fresh water and supplies might be obtained. In 1659 the East India Company sent John Dutton with a few soldiers and followers to annex the Island and form a settlement. These persons constituted the original European settlement of the Island, which from time to time was added to by more settlers and soldiers from England. Slaves from Africa and Asia, and in particular from Madagascar, were introduced, and in 1810 there was a large importation of Chinese workmen. In 1840 there was a considerable influx of liberated African slaves, and a few years later the St. Helena Regiment was permanently stationed in the Island. The men of this regiment were given certain facilities in regard to land, and many of the men formed associations with the Islanders.

The Island population to-day is largely of mixed origin. Many of the names are the same as those of the early settlers, and some families are able to trace their descent to the refugees from the City of London after its destruction by fire in 1666. The language of the Island has always been English, and the English environment has become firmly established. Although the climate of the Island is not conducive of qualities of energy and initiative, the people of St. Helena and their children have always been remarkable for their courtesy and consideration for others.

The population as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under :—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Islanders ... ..	1,825	2,026	3,851
Other British Residents ... ..	77	65	142
Other Nationals ... ..	2	—	2
	<u>1,904</u>	<u>2,091</u>	<u>3,995</u>

The distribution of the population is shown in the following table :—

<i>District.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Jamestown, including the Briars and Rupert's Valley ... ..	706	823	1,529
Half Tree Hollow and Ladder Hill (including Garrison) ... ..	227	263	490
St. Paul's ... ..	157	173	330
High Point, Farm Lodge, Rosemary and Cleughs Plain ... ..	140	155	295
Blue Hill ... ..	140	124	264
Sandy Bay... ..	143	146	289
Longwood and Hutt's Gate ... ..	391	407	798
	<u>1,904</u>	<u>2,091</u>	<u>3,995</u>

The estimated population on 31st December, 1934, was 4,224.

*Births and Deaths, 1931-1934.*

	<i>1931.</i>	<i>1932.</i>	<i>1933.</i>	<i>1934.</i>
Births ... ..	123	152	116	101
Deaths ... ..	59	58	68	47
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	154·4	131·5	172·4	138·6

The population of Ascension as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under :—

St. Helenians ... ..	152
Other British Residents ... ..	36
	<u>188</u>

The population on 31st December, 1934, was :—

St. Helenians ... ..	114
Other British Residents ... ..	59
	<u>173</u>

**IV.—HEALTH.**

The medical establishment of the Colony during the year consisted of :—

Senior Medical Officer.

Second Medical Officer.

Dental Surgeon.

Matron of the Hospital.

Three St. Helena women as Probationers.

The general health of the Island has been good, and there have been no epidemics. In the course of the year much valuable work has been achieved on beri beri which is due to the predilection of the people for polished rice as a staple foodstuff. About 80 cases have been under treatment.

The medical and dental care of the school children are subjects to which special attention is devoted.

The Civil Hospital, maintained by the Government, is an institution of 14 beds. The attendance of out-patients during the year was 1,616 and there were 130 admissions involving four major operations.

Two dressing stations are also established at convenient centres in the country districts for the treatment of out-patients from the remote areas. Vaccination of children, as a precautionary measure, is carried out under the Ordinance, although there have been no cases of smallpox.

The Poor House, under the management of a Poor Relief Board of five members elected by ratepayers and meeting every fortnight, was visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the inmates, who number 25, was good.

A Lunatic Asylum is maintained under the direction and management of the Poor Relief Board, subject to the general control of the Governor. The number of inmates at the end of the year was six. It is visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the inmates during the year was good.

**V.—HOUSING.**

The serious shortage of houses in both Jamestown and the country districts, and the dilapidated condition of many of the cottages, makes satisfactory housing a matter of the utmost difficulty. The population is steadily increasing, and there is much serious overcrowding with all its attendant evils.

The narrow valley in which Jamestown is situated permits of little expansion of the town area, and the inhabitants are reluctant to leave it for localities at higher altitudes. There is much slum property, and lack of funds makes it impossible to construct tenements on the few sites available. In the country districts there are few with resources sufficient to build themselves cottages, and

in any case there is a shortage of suitable land on which these could be erected. The construction of cottages, with between one or two acres of good agricultural land, would help materially in relieving much of the present poverty and distress, but the only land available is little better than scrub and rock.

The only legislation dealing with overcrowding is a provision in the Public Health Ordinance, 1869, which gives certain powers to the Board of Health. The Board, not unnaturally, is reluctant to exercise its powers in the improvement of houses when the occupiers have no means and there is nowhere else for them to live.

## VI.—PRODUCTION.

Although St. Helena has a cultivable area of about 8,600 acres, and is a fertile Island in which almost every crop can be made to grow, it is remarkable that there should be practically no agricultural production of any importance other than that of New Zealand hemp (*Phormium tenax*).

The production of potatoes, vegetables, and a very small quantity of fruit for internal consumption and the supply of passing mail steamers, are the only agricultural pursuits, in general, in the Island.

The principal reasons for this lack of development of the Island resources lie in the difficulties in finding markets for the existing Island crops, and in find new products for which an export market is available.

Only one productive plant, *Phormium tenax*, is grown in any quantity, and it is grown principally in those areas which are unsuitable for other crops.

The Island potatoes have long been known for their superior quality and flavour, and in the course of the year an experimental shipment was sent to London at Christmas and marketed at very favourable prices. The experiment is to be repeated on a larger scale in the future, but the area of the Island in which potatoes can be grown at the required time of year is believed to be very limited.

Since the appointment of an Agricultural and Forestry Officer in March, various experiments have been undertaken with haricot beans and other products, and it is hoped the haricot beans will fetch favourable prices. The possibility of agricultural development is being closely investigated and, in view of its paramount importance to the Island's prosperity, it is to be hoped products will be found for which markets are available.

The severe drought of 1933 broke early in January, 1934. The fall for the year at 2,000 feet was 41.55 inches, and at sea level 11.80 inches, being three inches and five inches above the average.

*Fibre Production.*—The fibre market weakened in the course of the year, and in July the price of hemp dropped to the lowest recorded level of £11 per ton. The production of hemp is the

only industry in the Island, and as a measure of unemployment relief eight mills have been in operation during the year working on an average subsidy of £4 10s. per ton of fibre produced.

Particulars of the production, export, and value of fibre and tow are appended:—

1934.	Produced. Tons.	Exported. Tons.	Average price per ton. London.
			£ s. d.
Fibre ... ..	821	568	12 0 0
Tow ... ..	401	447	8 0 0

*Rope Industry.*—Small consignments of rope have been manufactured from locally produced hemp at the small factory operated by Messrs. Deason Brothers.

*Horticulture.*—Passing mail steamers have continued to place small regular orders for vegetables, fruit and eggs, and the value of commodities supplied amounted to £368, being an increase of £57 on the value for 1933.

*Farming.*—Farming is now undertaken by one firm alone for the supply of local needs in meat and dairy produce.

#### ASCENSION.

The only export from Ascension is that of turtles. The number of turtles captured during 1934 was 59.

At Green Mountain the Eastern Telegraph Company possess a farm for the maintenance of imported animals, and gardens for the cultivation of vegetables. At the end of the year the stock consisted of 23 cattle, 398 sheep, and some pigs.

### VII.—COMMERCE.

The aggregate value of external trade, exclusive of bullion and specie, for the year amounted to £42,390 as compared with £40,838 for the previous year. Imports showed an increase of £2,577 and exports a decrease of £1,625.

The following table shows under the principal heads the respective values for the past five years:—

Imports.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco ...	24,095	23,347	17,122	17,359	17,545
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ... ..	1,088	608	149	620	1,145
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured... ..	18,754	19,405	14,167	11,219	13,986
Miscellaneous and unclassified ...	474	523	791	901	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	44,411	43,883	32,229	30,099	32,676
Bullion and specie ... ..	—	—	4,000	1,020	800
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total imports ... ..	44,411	43,883	36,229	31,119	33,476

<i>Exports.</i>			1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
			£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand fibre	...	...	11,890	10,975	3,265	7,553	5,759
„ tow	...	...	4,915	3,693	1,353	1,873	2,457
„ rope and twine	...	...	2,243	301	925	968	498
Other articles	...	...	730	330	588	345	200
			19,778	15,299	6,131	10,739	8,914
Bullion and specie	...	...	67	828	749	32	35
Total exports	...	...	19,845	16,127	6,880	10,771	8,949

### Imports.

It will be observed that there was a slight increase in the value of imports of food, drink, and tobacco. The increase under wholly or mainly manufactured articles is attributed to the importation of large consignments of petrol and oil and to more motor-cars and hardware being imported during the year.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported during the years 1933 and 1934, together with the decreases or increases :—

	1933.	1934.	Decrease —	Increase +
	£	£	£	£
Provisions	14,777	14,308	—	469
Drapery	3,404	3,264	—	140
Motor-cars and lorries	1,101	1,697	+	596
Petrol and oil	41	1,769	+	1,728
Hardware	1,721	2,814	+	1,093
Beer, wines, and spirits	1,521	1,229	—	292
Tobacco and cigarettes	1,055	963	—	92

The undermentioned quantities may also be recorded :—

	1933.	1934.	Decrease —	Increase +
Beer, wines, and spirits	6,667 gal.	4,919 gal.	—	1,748 gal.
Tobacco and cigarettes	5,640 lb.	5,745 lb.	+	105 lb.

The countries of origin were as follows :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	36,160	35,920	28,732	24,358	22,129
South Africa	5,101	5,218	3,136	3,010	6,345
United States of America	1,543	900	3,550	156	2,497
Other Foreign Countries	1,607	1,845	811	3,595	2,505

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of food, grain, wine, and tobacco. Those from other foreign countries included food-stuffs, motor-cars, petrol and oil from United States of America to the value of £2,497, and food-stuffs from the Argentine valued at £463, while the remainder from other foreign countries were food-stuffs, drink, and hardware.

**Exports.**

The decrease in value of exports is accounted for by the fall in market value of fibre throughout the year, and the absence of a market for hemp. The payment of a subsidy to millers during the year was continued as a measure of unemployment relief. Statistics of these exports during the past five years are shown in the following table :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Fibre ... ..	540	644	234	668	568
Tow... ..	342	296	144	285	447
Rope and twine ... ..	52	23	37	45	25

Rope and twine are shipped to England and South Africa, while fibre and tow are exported to England and occasionally to South Africa.

The distribution of the total exports of the Colony during the past five years has been as follows :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ... ..	18,699	15,569	5,774	10,356	8,446
South Africa ... ..	1,146	558	1,106	333	503
Argentine ... ..	—	—	—	82	—

**VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.**

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per day.

The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. per day amounting to 12s. for a week of forty-five hours, the half-day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In the flax mills the average daily rate for men is slightly under 1s. 9d. for a nine-hour day. The wages paid to women are slightly under 1s. per day.

In the rope works the average wage for men is 12s. per week, and for women 5s.

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is 210 and in the rope works 11.

In domestic service the monthly wage with board and lodging for housemaids varies from 10s. to £2, for cooks from 30s. to £2, and for male servants from 30s. to £4 15s.

The cost of living varies greatly. Meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1s. per lb.; fish is very cheap, but the supply is extremely limited and scarce in the country districts. Eggs vary according to season from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen, fresh butter is 3s. per lb., and imported butter 1s. 8d. per lb.; fresh milk is 5d. per imperial pint, and the price of fresh vegetables varies with the supply which is very limited at certain seasons. Rice which forms the staple article of diet of St. Helenians is 2d. per lb. and potatoes

vary throughout the year from 8d. to 2s. per gallon of 7 lb. On account of lack of communications and freight rates the cost of imported groceries is higher than in the United Kingdom.

From time to time accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a congenial climate and quietude. It is estimated that two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £500 to £550 a year. With a more limited range of activity two people could live on considerably less.

#### IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The educational system in St. Helena consists of eight primary schools, and a pupil teachers' and continuation class of more advanced pupils.

Of the primary schools three are administered by the Government, two in Jamestown for boys and girls respectively and one in the country. Three are administered by the trustees of the Hussey Charity, a fund established on a bequest in the will of Rebecca Hussey for the education of the children of slaves brought to the Island some seventy years or so ago from captured slavers, who afterwards were returned for settlement in Nigeria. Of the two remaining schools, the one at Sandy Bay is the only one left to the St. Helena Benevolent Society, which a hundred and more years ago took upon itself the education of the Island poor; the other at Blue Hill was founded thirty years ago in a remote part of the Island by the late Bishop Holbech. It has no endowment, but is maintained out of the Churches' Diocesan Fund assisted by a small grant from the South African Provincial Board of Education.

All the five non-Government schools are in receipt of small grants-in-aid.

Funds were granted in the 1934 estimates for repairs and improvements at the Hutt's Gate (Hussey Charity) and the Sandy Bay Schools, and in the course of the year, by the provision of 36 modern dual desks on steel frames, accommodation was provided for 72 children.

The Government country school, transferred from Luffkins to what is now known as St. Paul's Vicarage but which was formerly the country school before that school was removed to Luffkins, has been greatly improved by a new verandah and a well-built outside class room.

The work at all the schools is under the supervision of the Superintendent of Education who conducts an examination of the work at the three Government schools and the Blue Hill school at the end of each school quarter. The other schools are examined annually.

Pupil teachers undergo a four years' course in work on secondary school lines.

A woodwork class for boys and sewing classes for girls produce good results; and the girls win high praise from their examiners for the very careful and neat work they produce each year for inspection.

The children are also showing much interest in freehand drawing and painting. Music is not neglected and the singing is of good quality.

The Church has a benefit society for school children, which has a large membership. Sick relief is small, and when they are old enough the children are passed on to one or other of the adult societies. These are the Ancient Order of Foresters, the Mechanics Friendly and Benefit Society, the St. Helena Working Men's Christian Association, the Poor Society, and the Church Provident Society for Women, each as far as it goes doing a useful work in the social life of the people.

A children's lunch fund which provides a number of small rolls of bread for each school is maintained by the Church, and there is an urgent need for additional subscribers.

*Welfare Institutions.*—The maintenance of the poor is an obligation of the Poor Relief Board established under the Poor Relief Ordinance, 1914. Its members are elected annually by the rate-payers. The annual revenue of the Board is about £900 to £1,000, derived from a quarterly 5d. rate and a Government contribution of £82. The average daily number of inmates in the Poor House was 25 during the year, 68 being given outdoor relief.

The Friendly Societies, on which a note will be found in the Annual Report for 1931,\* are the principal welfare institutions of St. Helena.

Other welfare work is very largely in the hands of the local representatives of all the religious denominations, and much valuable work of great social value is undertaken.

#### X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union Castle Intermediate steamers. In addition, an American steamer of the American-South African Line called on four occasions. The vessels which called during the year were as follows :—

British vessels ... ..	31
British warships ... ..	3
American vessel—four visits ... ..	4
Other foreign vessels ... ..	5
	—
	43
	—

\* Colonial Report, No. 1630.

The first aeroplane flight over St. Helena was made by a seaplane from H.M.S. *Dorsetshire* on 3rd October. Flying conditions were not good.

Sixty miles of roads are maintained by the Public Works Department, and although grades are steep and in many places narrow, the roads of the Island compare very favourably with those in other countries.

Sixty-eight motor-cars and lorries are registered and licensed.

There is no wireless station in St. Helena, but there is a cable station with communication to all parts of the world.

The Empire Short-wave Broadcasting Service is received well in the Island.

There is regular postal communication each month between the Colony and England and South Africa. Mails are also made up as other occasions present themselves.

### XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution in the Colony.

The aggregate balances of depositors' accounts during the last five years were as follows:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Balance of Deposits at 31st December.</i>
	£
1930 ... ..	17,135
1931 ... ..	18,770
1932 ... ..	20,620
1933 ... ..	20,958
1934 ... ..	21,200

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1934, was 211 as compared with 207 on the same date in 1933.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank deposits at the end of the year is represented by Stock of the mean market value of £19,404.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa, are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

**XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.**

The Public Works Department is principally engaged in the current work of maintenance of roads, repairs to Government buildings, and the maintenance of domestic water supplies. No major works were begun during the year. Falls of rock from the steep cliffs enclosing Jamestown are not uncommon, and in August a heavy fall of rock occurred on the wharf, fortunately attended with no loss of life. Considerable difficulty was experienced in clearing the débris, and assistance had to be obtained from the local garrison in the use of explosives. The Department has again experienced difficulty in obtaining stone for building purposes. Locally made bricks, burnt or sun-dried, are unobtainable, and the supplies of stone are scarce, most of the more conveniently placed quarries having been exhausted in the construction of the numerous buildings and fortifications undertaken by the East India Company. The public buildings were designed and built for establishments far larger than they are to-day, and their repair and maintenance with the small financial provision available is often impossible. In this connexion the condition of Longwood New House, built for the Emperor Napoleon, is an admirable example of the difficulties which confront the Government. The size and number of rooms make the house quite unsuitable for any public purpose, and to place it in a proper state of repair would involve a very substantial expenditure.

The Public Works Department is also responsible for the maintenance of water supplies and the Jamestown drainage system. Both these services have been satisfactory throughout the year.

The Department is also associated with the maintenance of the public telephone system. The conformation of the Island makes internal communication a matter of the greatest difficulty. Throughout its long history the Island has always maintained various devices for internal communication, and the modern telephone system meets an important public need.

**XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.**

Subject to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony is so much of the law of England for the time being as is suitable and appropriate as far as local circumstances permit.

The Supreme Court of St. Helena, which is a Court of Record, was established by Order in Council of 13th February, 1839. Subsequent Orders extended its jurisdiction to Matrimonial and Divorce Causes. By Order in Council of the 5th of April, 1852, the Governor, in the absence of the Chief Justice, may act as Chief Justice, or appoint some other person to act. The Acting Chief Justice may be assisted at his discretion by Assessors who must be Members of the Executive Council or Justices of the Peace.

There were two civil cases before the Supreme Court during the year.

Summary jurisdiction is exercised by the Magistrate and Justices of the Peace. Ninety-two cases were reported to the Police during the year: In 77 cases action was taken in the Court resulting in 23 convictions.

The Small Debts Court, which has jurisdiction up to sums not exceeding £25, is established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Five cases were brought before the Court during the year as compared with seven in 1933.

*Gaol.*—Fifteen persons were committed to prison during the year as compared with 14 in 1933; the daily average being 0·6 as compared with 0·8 in 1933.

*Police.*—There have been no criminal cases of importance.

#### XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Four Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the most important was Ordinance No. 1, the Telephone Ordinance.

#### XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

##### Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue collected during the year, including a grant-in-aid of £2,500, amounted to £24,474, being £1,103 in excess of the estimate, and showing an increase of £5,926 over the revenue of the previous year.

This increase of revenue was mainly due to large Post Office and Ascension receipts, namely £5,310 and £2,566 respectively more than the figure of the previous year, owing to the exceptionally large sales of the St. Helena Centenary issue of Postage Stamps and the new issue of Ascension Stamps to dealers outside the Colony.

There was also a noticeable increase under Customs amounting to £384, due principally to the importation of a consignment of petrol and paraffin, of which there was no importation during the previous year.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Grants by	Grants-in-	Total	Expenditure.
		Colonial Development Fund.	aid by His Majesty's Treasury.		
	£	£	£	£	£
1930	12,570	—	6,000	18,570	25,820
1931	11,940	6,340	7,000	25,820	27,109
1932	13,817	560	13,500	27,877	18,906
1933	13,548	—	5,000	18,548	18,617
1934	21,974	—	2,500	24,474	23,792

The Revenue for the year 1934 as compared with the preceding year is summarized hereunder :—

	1933.	1934.
	£	£
Customs ... ..	4,754	5,138
Port and Marine ... ..	1,471	1,503
Licences, Taxes, etc. ... ..	619	617
Fees of Court or Office and Reimbursements ... ..	735	671
Post Office ... ..	911	6,221
Revenue from Government Properties ... ..	1,119	1,140
Interest ... ..	627	619
Miscellaneous ... ..	383	573
Ascension ... ..	2,926	5,492
Sale of Land ... ..	3	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13,548	21,974
Grant-in-Aid ... ..	5,000	2,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£18,548	£24,474

The Expenditure for the year as compared with the preceding year is as under :—

	1933.	1934.
	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities ... ..	1,059	1,060
Governor and Legal ... ..	1,097	1,145
Secretariat ... ..	1,021	1,011
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine ... ..	914	817
Post Office ... ..	412	1,756
Public Health ... ..	1,997	2,538
Education ... ..	845	998
Agriculture and Forestry ... ..	560	924
Police and Gaol ... ..	649	694
Public Works Department and Recurrent ... ..	3,324	3,167
Miscellaneous ... ..	1,424	2,358
Ascension ... ..	2,035	2,645
Public Works Extraordinary ... ..	136	1,095
Relief of Unemployed (Flax Subsidy) ... ..	3,119	3,584
Colonial Development Fund—		
Reconstruction of Roads ... ..	—	—
Improvement to Telephone System ... ..	25	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£18,617	£23,792

A statement of the Assets and Liabilities is appended :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Assets—</i>						
Cash—						
Local Treasury ... ..	3,523	8	0			
Crown Agents ... ..	495	16	3			
Remittances in transit to Crown Agents ... ..	230	6	3			
	<hr/>			4,249	10	6
Advances—						
Postmaster ... ..	104	3	2			
Other Advances ... ..	757	16	9			
	<hr/>			861	19	11
Investments—						
Savings Bank ... ..	19,403	14	5			
Alexander Bequest ... ..	1,114	2	3			
Red Cross Society ... ..	142	12	9			
Botley's Fund ... ..	5	19	1			
	<hr/>			20,666	8	6
Flax Mill and Machinery ... ..				661	1	1
Unallocated Stores ... ..				893	17	9
	<hr/>			£27,332	17	9
<i>Liabilities—</i>						
Deposits—						
Savings Bank ... ..	21,199	11	3			
Postmaster ... ..	2	15	1			
Alexander Bequest ... ..	1,114	2	3			
Red Cross Society ... ..	142	12	9			
Botley's Fund ... ..	5	19	1			
Alexander Bequest (Interest Account) ... ..		13	16	3		
Telephone Fund ... ..	92	18	1			
Other Deposits ... ..	621	18	7			
	<hr/>			23,193	13	4
Bills of Exchange ... ..				827	15	11
Excess of Assets over Liabilities (Surplus) ... ..				3,311	8	0
	<hr/>			£27,332	17	0

**Public Debt.**

During the years 1930-31 the sum of £475 was loaned from the Colonial Development Fund for the improvement of the telephone system. This sum was loaned free of interest for one year and thereafter at 2½ per cent., and is repayable by annuities of 5 per cent., the principal outstanding at 31st December, 1934, being £450 19s. 1d.

**Taxation.**

The principal sources of taxation and the yield during the year 1934 are as follows:—

	£
Customs—	
Import Duties ... ..	5,138
Port and Wharfage Dues—	
Shipping Dues ... ..	251
Wharfage Dues ... ..	1,251
Licences—	
Carriages, Carts and Horses ... ..	58
Motor cars and Lorries ... ..	166
Boats ... ..	122
Fire Arms and Game ... ..	39
Liquor ... ..	126
Rates—	
Water ... ..	163

There were no changes in taxation during the year.

**XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.****Lands.**

By Royal Charter of 16th December, 1673, the East India Company became possessed of St. Helena as "Lords of the Manor to be held in free and common soccage, in capite not by knights' service."

The Company's occupation lasted until 24th February, 1836, by which date the land of the Island had been distributed in seven "categories of tenure," classified as follows:—

1. Land sold as freehold subject to faith and allegiance, and obedience to laws and constitutions.
2. Land sold as freehold subject to an annual ground rental of 3d. per foot; chiefly in Jamestown.
3. Land granted for building purposes on 21 years' renewable building leases.

4. Land leased as "permanent tenure" on a quit rent assessed by a Grand Jury in 1828; with a right of resumption by the Government whenever the public service might require on payment of the value to be assessed by a jury.

5. Land held as free on the same conditions as in No. 4 and in addition subject to the annual payment of 1s. per acre in conformity with the Company's by-laws, which related to the liability for military service.

6. Land leased on lives; renewable on the death of the nominee; a sum to be paid to Government on nomination of the new life.

7. Land leased at varying rates, terms, and periods.

In addition to the above there was

(a) Land in occupation by the Company, e.g., Longwood and Plantation Farms.

(b) Undeveloped or uncultivable land known as "Company Waste Land."

When the Crown assumed the direct administration of the Island in 1836, the tenures inherited from the East India Company were not disturbed. But in 1843, changes were made which revolutionized the system of land tenure throughout the Island. By Proclamation No. 43 of the 7th of August of that year, an offer was made to tenants of land to commute their holdings to freehold on the following terms:—

(a) Categories 2, 4 and 5 on payment of 10 years' rental.

(b) Categories 3 and 6 on payment of 12½ years' rental.

Large numbers of properties were so commuted, and this process with a hundred years' usage, has resulted in the following classification which is recognized throughout the Island:—

1. Freehold.
2. Permanent Tenure (subject to quit rent).
3. Freehold (subject to quit and ground rents).
4. Crown Lease.
5. Government Property.
6. Imperial Government Property.
7. Crown Waste.

The area of the Island is approximately 30,000 acres of which 8,600 acres are regarded as cultivable.

Of the cultivable area approximately 4,741 acres are owned by the Government, but of this figure approximately 2,126 acres are of permanent tenure and "free" properties.

The distribution of land is as follows :—

	<i>Number of Holdings.</i>
Under 10 acres ... ..	414
Over 10 and under 50 ... ..	57
Over 50 and under 100 ... ..	9
Over 100 and under 500 ... ..	7
Over 500 and under 1,000 ... ..	2
Over 1,000 ... ..	Nil.

The only legislation dealing with land is "The Conveyancing and Registration Ordinance, 1893," which simplifies conveyancing and provides for registration.

There has been only one transaction of any importance during the year.

#### **General.**

The centenary of the transfer of the Island from the East India Company to the Crown was observed on the 23rd of April, the 22nd being on a Sunday, when the Union Jack was hoisted at Ladder Hill Barracks, and a Salute of 21 guns fired. A guard of honour from H.M.S. *Rochester* was mounted, and the ceremony was widely attended.

On 5th May the completion of the reconstructed portions of Longwood Old House and the inauguration of the Longwood Museum was marked by a reception given by M. Colin, the French Consular Agent.

It is very much to be hoped that this Museum will receive the support of those to whom the historical associations of Longwood make a special appeal. There could be no place more suitable than the house in which the Emperor Napoleon died, for the deposit and care of objects connected with his exile and death, and it is of interest that the first unofficial presentations to the Museum were relics of great value and importance generously given by two prominent residents of the Island.

## APPENDIX.

## BOOKS ON ST. HELENA OF GENERAL INTEREST.

<i>Title.</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>	<i>Price.</i>
"A History of the Island of St. Helena", 1808, by T. H. Brook. 2nd Edition, 1824.	Publishers to East India Company.	—
"St. Helena, 1875", by J. C. Mellis.	L. Reeve & Co., London.	£2 2s.
"St. Helena—the Historic Island", 1903, by E. L. Jackson.	Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd., London.	—
*"Napoleon in Exile", 1915, by Norwood Young (Two Volumes).	Stanley Paul & Co., London.	£1 12s.
"St. Helena Who's Who", 1919, by Arnold Chaplin.	A. L. Humphreys, London.	—
"Tracts relative to the Island of St. Helena", by Beatson, London, 1816.		
"Extracts from Records of St. Helena", by H. R. Janisch, C.M.G., Jamestown, 1885.		
"History of St. Helena", English Historical Review, by Sir William Foster, July, 1919.		
"Report on the Agricultural Resources of St. Helena", by D. Morris. Reprinted 1906. (Cd. 3248, Colonial Report Misc. No. 38.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	3½d.
"Geological Notes on St. Helena, by various writers, with remarks on the Economic Geology of that Island, and Geological Map", by Sir Albert Kitson, C.M.G., C.B.E., April, 1931. (Colonial No. 66.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1s. 3d.
"Report on the Fisheries of St. Helena", by J. T. Cunningham, M.A., F.Z.S., 1910. (Cd. 4998, Colonial Report Misc. No. 69.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1½d.
"Report on the Marine Molluscan Fauna of the Island of St. Helena", by Edgar A. Smith, 1890. Proceedings of Zoological Society of London, 1890, Part II, pp. 247-317.		
"St. Helene", by Octave Aubry.	Flammarion, Paris.	25 francs

\* This work contains a bibliography of 172 publications referring to the captivity of the Emperor Napoleon in St. Helena.

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